UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/855,804	05/16/2001	Linda Ann Roberts	BLL0435US	1529

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 March 2009*.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-21 and 23-29* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-21 and 23-29* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is in response to the Amendment filed 3/16/09. Claims 4 and

22 have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5-21, and 23-29 are currently pending in the

application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolan et

al. (U.S. Patent 6,477,246 B1) in view of Roberts et al. (U.S. Patent 7,254,226 B1).

With respect to claim 28, Dolan et al. discloses a method comprising

associating a subscriber number with priority caller information comprising a priority

caller number and a priority caller code comprising an instruction for executing a priority

action for processing an incoming communication and storing the subscriber number,

the priority caller information, and at least one instruction from the subscriber in a

database **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and Figure 3 of Dolan et al. for reference to**

associating a subscriber number with a list of stored numbers, which are priority

caller numbers, as well as instructions for handling calls from these numbers

added at the subscriber's discretion, with the instructions being instructions for

executing a priority action and for reference to these numbers and instructions

being stored in a message store memory 33, which is a database). Dolan et al.

also discloses detecting the incoming communication to a telephone line of a

subscriber, consulting the database to determine whether the incoming communication

comprises the priority caller information, and executing the priority action if the incoming

communication comprises the priority caller information **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and**

Figure 7 of Dolan et al. for reference to handling a call by receiving it at a local

exchange switch, which detects the incoming communication to a telephone line

of a subscriber, consulting the message store memory 33 to determine if the

caller number is associated with any call handling instructions, and if the caller

number is associated with call handling instructions, executing the call handling

instructions). Dolan et al. further discloses that the priority action includes an action to

generate an outgoing call to another telephone associated with another telephone line,

an action to generate an outgoing call to a wireless telephone associated with the

subscriber, and an action to establish a communication session among the incoming

communication and a computer associated with the subscriber **(See column 4 lines 47-**

58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for reference to based on

the call handling instructions associated with the caller number, executing a find

me/follow me service that initiates an outgoing call to a different telephone

associated with a different telephone line, such as a business number or a

different personal number, initiates an outgoing call to a cell phone, which is a wireless telephone, and initiates a connection to various internet devices, which are computer devices associated with the subscriber). Dolan et al. does not specifically disclose the priority caller information including a subscriber generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a priority caller.

With respect to claim 28, Roberts et al., in the field of communications, discloses using priority caller information including a subscriber generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a priority caller **(See column 1 lines 50-67 and column 2 lines 21-60 of Roberts et al. for reference to a subscriber generating a subscriber list including priority codes that are entered by calling parties, whereby the priority codes must inherently be provided by the subscriber to a plurality of priority calling parties in order for the calling parties to be able to know and use the priority codes)**. Using priority caller information including a generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a priority caller has the advantage of allowing callers to be given special priority consideration based on entry of the priority code.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, when presented with the work of Roberts et al., to combine using priority caller information including a generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a priority caller, as suggested by Roberts et al., with the system and method of Dolan et al., with the motivation being to allow callers to be given special priority consideration based on entry of the priority code.

4.   Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-18, 21, 23-25, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Dolan et al. in view of Roberts et al. and in further view of

Hoopes (U.S. Pat. 6058171).

With respect to claim 1, Dolan et al. discloses a system for routing an incoming

call from a calling party for a telephone line of a subscriber **(See column 2 line 51 to**

column 3 line 12 and Figure 1 of Dolan et al. for reference to a system that routes

calls for a subscriber). Dolan et al. also discloses a service switching point associated

with the telephone line, and a service control point in communication with the service

switching point **(See column 2 line 51 to column 3 line 12 and Figure 1 of Dolan et**

al. for reference to local exchange switch 27, which is a service switching point

associated with the subscriber line of second entity 22, and for reference to

command center 25, which is a service control point in communication with the

local exchange switch 27). Dolan et al further discloses that when the service

switching point detects the incoming call, it launches a query comprising a subscriber

number to the service control point **(See column 4 lines 17-46 and Figure 4 of Dolan**

et al. for reference to after detecting an incoming call sending information

including both the caller telephone number and the called telephone number to

the command center 25). Dolan et al. also discloses the service control point

receiving the query and referring to a database storing a subscriber's number, priority

caller information, and at least one instruction from the subscriber **(See column 5 lines**

5-28 and Figure 3 of Dolan et al. for reference to associating a subscriber number

with a list of stored numbers, which are priority caller numbers, as well as instructions for handling calls from these numbers added at the subscriber's discretion, with the instructions being instructions for executing a priority action and for reference to these numbers and instructions being stored in a message store memory 33, which is a database). Dolan et al. also discloses the service control point returning a default response if the calling party is not a priority caller and a priority response if the calling party is a priority caller **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and Figure 7 of Dolan et al. for reference to determining if the calling party number has call handling instructions, and if the calling party number has call handling instructions, executing these instructions, meaning that if there is no call handling instructions associated with the calling party number that some default response must be sent such that the call is handled).** Dolan et al. further discloses that the priority response comprises forwarding the incoming call to another telephone associated with another telephone line, forwarding the incoming call to a wireless telephone associated with the subscriber, and establishing a communication session with a calling party and a computer associated with the subscriber via a computer network **(See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for reference to based on the call handling instructions associated with the caller number, executing a find me/follow me service that forwards the call to a different telephone associated with a different telephone line, such as a business number or a different personal number, forwards the call to a cell phone, which is a wireless telephone, and initiates a connection to various internet devices, which**

are computer devices associated with the subscriber). Dolan et al. does not

specifically disclose the priority caller information including a subscriber generated

priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a priority caller.

Dolan et al. also does not disclose that the priority response comprises an action to ring

a telephone associated with the telephone line with an alert signal that is different from

a regular ringing tone.

   With respect to claim 11, Dolan et al. discloses a method for routing an

incoming call from a calling party for a telephone line of a subscriber **(See column 2**

line 51 to column 3 line 12 and Figure 1 of Dolan et al. for reference to a system

that implements a method to route calls for a subscriber). Dolan et al. also

discloses associating a subscriber number with priority caller information and storing the

subscriber number, the priority caller information, and at least one instruction form the

subscriber in a database **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and Figure 3 of Dolan et al. for**

reference to associating a subscriber number with a list of stored numbers, which

are priority caller numbers, as well as instructions for handling calls from these

numbers added at the subscriber's discretion, with the instructions being

instructions for executing a priority action and for reference to these numbers

and instructions being stored in a message store memory 33, which is a

database). Dolan et al. further discloses detecting the incoming call, consulting the

database to determine whether the incoming call comprises the priority caller

information, and executing the priority action if the incoming call comprises the priority

caller information **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and Figure 7 of Dolan et al. for reference**

to handling a call by receiving it at a local exchange switch, which detects the incoming communication to a telephone line of a subscriber, consulting the message store memory 33 to determine if the caller number is associated with any call handling instructions, and if the caller number is associated with call handling instructions, executing the call handling instructions). Dolan et al. also discloses that the priority action includes an action to generate an outgoing call to another telephone associated with another telephone line, an action to generate an outgoing call to a wireless telephone associated with the subscriber, and an action to establish a communication session among the incoming communication and a computer associated with the subscriber **(See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for reference to based on the call handling instructions associated with the caller number, executing a find me/follow me service that initiates an outgoing call to a different telephone associated with a different telephone line, such as a business number or a different personal number, initiates an outgoing call to a cell phone, which is a wireless telephone, and initiates a connection to various internet devices, which are computer devices associated with the subscriber).** Dolan et al. does not specifically disclose the priority caller information including a subscriber generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a priority caller. Dolan et al. also does not disclose that the priority response comprises an action to ring a telephone associated with the telephone line with a priority alert signal that is different from a regular ringing tone.

With respect to claim 14, Dolan et al. discloses a method for routing an incoming call from a calling party for a telephone line of a subscriber **(See column 2 line 51 to column 3 line 12 and Figure 1 of Dolan et al. for reference to a system that implements a method to route calls for a subscriber)**. Dolan et al. also discloses associating a subscriber number with at least one priority caller number comprising two or more priority codes for executing a priority action for processing an incoming communication and storing the subscriber number the priority caller number, and at least one instruction form the subscriber in a database **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and Figure 3 of Dolan et al. for reference to associating a subscriber number with a list of stored numbers, which are priority caller numbers, as well as instructions for handling calls from these numbers added at the subscriber's discretion, with the instructions being priority codes for executing a priority action and for reference to these numbers and instructions being stored in a message store memory 33, which is a database)**. Dolan et al. further discloses detecting the incoming call, consulting the database to determine whether the incoming call comprises the at least one priority caller number, and executing the priority action if the incoming communication comprises the at least one priority caller number **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and Figure 7 of Dolan et al. for reference to handling a call by receiving it at a local exchange switch, which detects the incoming communication to a telephone line of a subscriber, consulting the message store memory 33 to determine if the caller number is associated with any call handling instructions, and if the caller number is associated with call handling**

instructions, executing the call handling instructions). Dolan et al. also discloses

that the priority response comprises forwarding the incoming call to another telephone

associated with another telephone line, forwarding the incoming call to a wireless

telephone associated with the subscriber, and establishing a communication session

with a calling party and a computer associated with the subscriber via a computer

network **(See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et**

al. for reference to based on the call handling instructions associated with the

caller number, executing a find me/follow me service that forwards the call to a

different telephone associated with a different telephone line, such as a business

number or a different personal number, forwards the call to a cell phone, which is

a wireless telephone, and initiates a connection to various internet devices, which

are computer devices associated with the subscriber). Dolan et al. does not

specifically disclose the priority caller information including a subscriber generated

priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a priority caller.

Dolan et al. also does not disclose that the priority response comprises an action to ring

a telephone associated with the telephone line with an alert signal that is different from

a regular ringing tone.

   With respect to claim 21, Dolan et al. discloses a method for routing an

incoming call from a calling party to a telephone line of a subscriber **(See column 2 line**

51 to column 3 line 12 and Figure 1 of Dolan et al. for reference to a system that

implements a method to route calls for a subscriber). Dolan et al. also discloses

associating a subscriber number with at least one priority code and storing the

subscriber number, the at least one priority code, and at least one instruction from the

subscriber in a database **(See column 5 lines 5-28 and Figure 3 of Dolan et al. for**

reference to associating a subscriber number with a list of stored numbers, which

are priority caller numbers, as well as instructions for handling calls from these

numbers added at the subscriber's discretion, with the instructions being priority

codes for executing a priority action and for reference to these numbers and

instructions being stored in a message store memory 33, which is a database).

Dolan et al. further discloses soliciting the calling party for a priority code comprising an

instruction for executing a priority action, receiving the calling party priority information,

consulting the data base to determine if the priority code matches any of the at least

one priority codes, and executing the priority action according to the calling parity

information **(See column 4 lines 17-58 and Figure 4 of Dolan et al. for reference to**

prompting a caller to give a touch tone ID, which is priority information that

comprising an instruction for executing an action based on the ID, and for

reference to searching message store memory 33 for the information and

executing a call handling instruction according to the ID entered by the caller).

Dolan et al. also discloses that the terminating equipment comprises a telephone and a

computer **(See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan**

et al. for reference to initiating a connection to both telephones and various

internet devices, which are computer devices, associated with the subscriber).

Dolan et al. does not specifically disclose the priority caller information including a

subscriber generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and

submitted by a priority caller. Dolan et al. also does not disclose that the priority

response comprises an action to ring a telephone associated with the telephone line

with an alert signal that is different from a regular ringing tone.

With respect to claims 1, 11, 14, and 21, Roberts et al., in the field of

communications, discloses using priority caller information including a subscriber

generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers and submitted by a

priority caller **(See column 1 lines 50-67 and column 2 lines 21-60 of Roberts et al.**

for reference to a subscriber generating a subscriber list including priority codes

that are entered by calling parties, whereby the priority codes must inherently be

provided by the subscriber to a plurality of priority calling parties in order for the

calling parties to be able to know and use the priority codes). Using priority caller

information including a generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority callers

and submitted by a priority caller has the advantage of allowing callers to be given

special priority consideration based on entry of the priority code.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention, when presented with the work of Roberts et al., to combine using priority

caller information including a generated priority code provided to a plurality of priority

callers and submitted by a priority caller, as suggested by Roberts et al., with the

system and method of Dolan et al., with the motivation being to allow callers to be given

special priority consideration based on entry of the priority code.

With respect to claim 5, Dolan et al. does not disclose that the default response

comprises an instruction for the service switching point to terminal the call using a

regular ringing tone and the priority response comprises an instruction for the service

switching point to terminate the call using a priority alert signal.

With respect to claim 13, Dolan et al. discloses prompting the calling party to

input calling party priority information comprising an instruction for executing a priority

action, receiving the calling party priority information, and executing the priority action

according to the calling parity information **(See column 4 lines 17-58 and Figure 4 of**

Dolan et al. for reference to prompting a caller to give a touch tone ID, which is

priority information that comprising an instruction for executing an action based

on the ID, and for reference to executing a call handling instruction according to

the ID entered by the caller). Dolan et al. also discloses that the priority action

includes an action to generate an outgoing call to another telephone associated with

another telephone line, an action to generate an outgoing call to a wireless telephone

associated with the subscriber, and an action to establish a communication session

among the incoming communication and a computer associated with the subscriber

(See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for

reference to based on the call handling instructions associated with the caller

number, executing a find me/follow me service that initiates an outgoing call to a

different telephone associated with a different telephone line, such as a business

number or a different personal number, initiates an outgoing call to a cell phone,

which is a wireless telephone, and initiates a connection to various internet

devices, which are computer devices associated with the subscriber). Dolan et al.

does not disclose that the priority response comprises an action to ring a telephone

associated with the telephone line with a priority alert signal that is different from a regular ringing tone.

With respect to claim 15, Dolan et al. does not disclose playing a priority alert signal to alert the subscriber of the incoming call.

With respect to claim 29, Dolan et al. discloses prompting the calling party to input calling party priority information comprising an instruction for executing a priority action, receiving the calling party priority information, and executing the priority action according to the calling parity information **(See column 4 lines 17-58 and Figure 4 of Dolan et al. for reference to prompting a caller to give a touch tone ID, which is priority information that comprising an instruction for executing an action based on the ID, and for reference to executing a call handling instruction according to the ID entered by the caller)**. Dolan et al. also discloses that the terminating equipment comprises a telephone and a computer **(See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for reference to initiating a connection to both telephones and various internet devices, which are computer devices, associated with the subscriber)**. Dolan et al. does not disclose that the priority response comprises an action to ring a telephone associated with the telephone line with an alert signal that is different from a regular ringing tone.

With respect to claims 1, 5, 11, 13-15, 21, and 29, Hoopes, in the field of communications, discloses a priority response comprising an action to ring a telephone with an alert signal that is different from a regular ring tone and a default response comprising an action to ring a telephone with a regular ring tone **(See column 5 line 66**

to column 7 line 14 and Figure 8 of Hoopes for reference to determining if a caller is a priority caller based on the telephone number of the caller, using a unique ring to signal the caller if the caller is a priority caller, and using a default ring if the caller is not a priority caller). Using a priority response comprising an action to ring a telephone with an alert signal that is different from a regular ring tone and a default response comprising an action to ring a telephone with a regular ring tone has the advantage of allowing a called party to determine the priority or identity of a caller before a call is answered based on the type of ring.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, when presented with the work of Hoopes, to combine using a priority response comprising an action to ring a telephone with an alert signal that is different from a regular ring tone and a default response comprising an action to ring a telephone with a regular ring tone, as suggested by Hoopes, with the system and method of Dolan et al. and Roberts et al., with the motivation being to allow a called party to determine the priority or identity of a caller before a call is answered based on the type of ring.

With respect to claim 2, Dolan et al. discloses that the query comprises priority caller information **(See column 4 lines 17-46 of Dolan et al. for reference to the information that is sent including the telephone number of the caller)**.

With respect to claims 3 and 12, Dolan et al. discloses that the priority caller information is a telephone number associated with a second telephone line that is used by the calling party to initiate the incoming call **(See column 4 lines 17-46 of Dolan et**

al. for reference to the information that is sent including the telephone number of the caller).

With respect to claims 6, 16 and 23, Dolan et al. discloses that the priority response comprises initiating a call to another telephone associated with the subscriber (See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for reference to based on the call handling instructions associated with the caller number, executing a find me/follow me service that forwards the call to a different telephone associated with a different telephone line, such as a business number or a different personal number).

With respect to claims 7, 17, and 24, Dolan et al. disclose that the another telephone is a wireless telephone (See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for reference to based on the call handling instructions associated with the caller number, executing a find me/follow me service that forwards the call to a cell phone, which is a wireless telephone).

With respect to claims 8, 18, and 25, Dolan et al. discloses establishing a communication session with a computer associated with the subscriber via a computer network (See column 4 lines 47-58, column 6 lines 20-47, and Figure 13 of Dolan et al. for reference to based on the call handling instructions associated with the caller number, executing a find me/follow me service that initiates a connection to various internet devices, which are computer devices associated with the subscriber).

5.   Claims 9-10, 19-20, and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Dolan et al. in view of Roberts et al. and Hoopes as applied to claims

1-3, 5-8, 11-18, 21, 23-25, and 29 above, and in further view of Taylor (U.S. Pat.

6922411 B1).

With respect to claims 9, 19, and 26, the combination of Dolan et al., Roberts

et al., and Hoopes does not disclose that the communications session uses TCP/IP.

With respect to claims 10, 20, and 27, the combination of Dolan et al., Roberts

et al., and Hoopes does not disclose that the communications session is a voice-over-

Internet protocol session.

With respect to claims 9-10, 19-20, and 26-27, Taylor, in the field of

communications, discloses a follow me service that connects a subscriber using TCP/IP

and voice-over-Internet protocol **(See column 5 lines 44-49 and column 7 line 48 to**

column 8 line 3 of Taylor for reference to using TCP/IP and Voice-over-IP protocol

as a part of a follow-me-find-me application). A follow me service that connects a

subscriber using TCP/IP and voice-over-Internet protocol has the advantage of using

two widely accepted transmission formats to transmit a call over the Internet to the

subscriber.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention, when presented with the work of Taylor, to combine a follow me service that

connects a subscriber using TCP/IP and voice-over-Internet protocol, as suggested by

Taylor, with the system and method of Dolan et al., Roberts et al., and Hoopes, with the

motivation being to use two widely accepted transmission formats to transmit a call over

the Internet to the subscriber.

Response to Arguments

6.   Applicant's arguments filed 9/9/08 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

Applicant's arguments regarding Shaffer et al. are persuasive; however new

grounds of rejection have been made in view of Roberts et al., as shown above. Thus,

this Office Action is made non-final.

Regarding Applicant's argument that it would not have been obvious to include a

priority alert signal, as taught by Hoopes, in the system and method of Dolan et al., the

Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant argues a priority alert ring would be

redundant and unnecessary since the priority decision has already been made before

the call is routed to the subscriber; however, since Hoopes teaches using different rings

corresponding to different callers, who are each priority callers, providing a priority alert

ring, as disclosed by Hoopes, in the system and method of Dolan et al. still provides the

advantage of allowing a user learn the exact identity of multiple different priority callers

based on the type of ring. Thus, instead of just knowing that a caller is a priority caller,

the subscriber could identify the specific priority caller making the call based on the ring

type. Thus, since the system and method of Dolan et al. would gain this advantage

when incorporating the priority alert ring taught by Hoopes, it would have been obvious

to combine these teachings as shown in the rejections above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to JASON E. MATTIS whose telephone number is

(571)272-3154. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571)272-3155. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason E Mattis
Primary Examiner
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JEM

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